

## EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, APRIL, 1926

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*General summary.*—Widespread rains and wet soil delayed farm operations materially over most of the region east of the Rocky Mountains, and particularly over the central valleys and west Gulf States. More rain was needed to aid germination and stop drifting soil in the northern Great Plains. Low temperatures over the eastern half of the country made germination very slow, and at the end of the month vegetation in most sections of this area was two to three weeks late. West of the Rocky Mountains weather conditions were more favorable both for work on the land and germination of seeds, except in the Pacific Northwest where more moisture was needed. During the first week a freeze did considerable damage to fruit in Missouri and Arkansas, and to oats and barley in the lower Plains States, while later in the month there was light frost damage to fruit in the southern Appalachian region.

*Small grains.*—Small grains were practically at a standstill during the early part of April, because of the cold, wet weather, and developed more slowly than usual for the entire month. The heavy snow over the western Winter Wheat Belt early in the month, while retarding growth, greatly improved soil moisture conditions, and later the crop made satisfactory progress in this region. With drier weather in the eastern portion of the belt during the latter half of the month, early-seeded winter wheat made fair progress but late-seeded remained in poor condition. With favorable working conditions, the seeding of spring wheat made good progress and was practically completed at the end of the month, but germination had been delayed by lack of moisture, and some damage was done by blowing soil. Oat seeding was begun nearly to the northern border, and oats were

heading in California. Rice seeding was much behind in Louisiana.

*Corn and cotton.*—Corn planting was practically suspended during the early part of the month by cold, wet weather, but became more active later under more favorable conditions. Germination was poor in the South, making considerable replanting necessary; warmer weather was needed for this crop.

Cotton planting was also delayed by the cold, wet weather, and germination was poor generally, necessitating much replanting in some sections. At the end of the month planting was general to southeast Oklahoma, and had begun in Virginia.

*Ranges, pastures, and livestock.*—Moisture conditions were very favorable over the western range country, except in the far Northwest where rain was needed. Cold and snow were somewhat unfavorable for calves and lambs in some Rocky Mountain areas early in the month, but the mild weather later was very beneficial, and livestock were mostly in good condition. Pastures made fair progress in the East and South, but were needing rain in the central and northern Plains States.

*Fruit.*—Fruit suffered considerably from the freeze in the Ozark regions early in the month, and some damage was done later in the lower Great Plains and the southern Atlantic coast area. Otherwise the cool weather was favorable in that blooming was delayed. At the end of the month, deciduous fruits were blooming north to West Virginia and the lower Missouri Valley.

*Miscellaneous crops.*—Potatoes, tobacco, and truck crops generally were delayed by the cold, wet weather in the East and South. At the end of the month potato planting had extended northward only as far as Pennsylvania, and tobacco plants were reported small and late in the Ohio Valley, and transplanting made slow progress in south Atlantic districts. Cane was coming to a fairly good stand in Louisiana. Thinning sugar beets was making good progress in the Western States.